

François Boucher, 1703-1770
Allegory of Painting

**KRESS CATALOGUE NUMBER**

K1336

IDENTIFIER

196

ARTIST

Boucher, François, 1703-1770

NATIONALITY

French

DATE

1765

MEDIUM

oil on canvas

TYPE OF OBJECT

Painting

DIMENSIONS

101.5 x 130 cm (39 15/16 x 51 3/16 in)

LOCATION

National Gallery of Art, Washington, District of Columbia

PROVENANCE

Possibly Maximilian III Joseph, Elector of Bavaria [1745-1777]. Traditionally said to have been brought into France by the early 19th century by Général de Saint-Maurice. M. Maillat du Boullay, Paris; (his sale, Hôtel Drouot, Paris, 22 January 1870, no. 2); M. Féral. Gustave Rothan, Paris, by 1874; [1] (his sale, Galerie Georges Petit, Paris, 29-31 May 1890, no. 123); Fréret. Adèle, 4th duchesse de Dino [née Adèle Livingston Sampson, 1842-1912; married first to Frederick W. Stevens], Paris, by 1907; probably by inheritance to her daughter, Countess Mabel Stevens Orłowski [married 1891 to Count Mieczysław Orłowski (1865-1929)]; [2] (Wildenstein & Co., Inc., Paris, New York, and London); sold 1942 to the Samuel H. Kress Foundation, New York; gift 1946 to NGA. [1] The early provenance of this painting and NGA 1946.7.2 is based on tradition rather than documentary evidence, and derives from Paul Mantz, "La Galerie de M. Rothan," *Gazette des Beaux-Arts* (1873): 442, who believed the pair had been painted for the Elector of Bavaria, Maximilian III Joseph. They were then supposedly returned to France in the early nineteenth century by General de Saint-Maurice, who, according to André Michel, *François Boucher*, Paris, n.d. [1906]: 51, kept them for some sixty years before selling them to Maillat du Boullay. As Alastair Laing has pointed out, however, Saint-Maurice never served in Bavaria and died in 1796 (letter of 20 April 1997 to Richard Rand). Nor do any references to the paintings appear in the state archives of Bavaria; see Colin Eisler, *Paintings from the Samuel H. Kress Collection: European Schools Excluding Italian*, Oxford, 1977: 318, who offered the possibility that they were commissioned by Joseph von Dufresne, a courtier of the Elector who had a large collection of French

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pictures (see also correspondence in NGA curatorial files). Mantz writes that Rothan acquired the pair of paintings in 1870, probably at Maillet du Boullay's sale; Rothan certainly owned them by 1874, when he lent them to an exhibition in Paris. [2] The Wildenstein prospectus for the pair of paintings listed the last three owners as Mme. Livingston-Sampson, Duchesse de Dino, and Comte Orłowski [sic]. Research for the Gallery's systematic catalogue of 15th-18th century French paintings determined that the first two names were the same person, and that the Count was her son-in-law. See NGA curatorial files for the prospectus and documentation of the family history.

ACCESSION NUMBER

1946.7.1

KRESS NUMBER

1336

PICHETTO NUMBER

11554

LEGACY NGA NUMBER

766

1 ACQUISITION

Wildenstein and Company, December 31, 1942

2 DISTRIBUTIONS

Loan to National Gallery of Art, April 12, 1943

Gift to National Gallery of Art, June 11, 1946

EXTERNAL LINKS

Related Collection Record

<https://www.nga.gov/collection/art-object-page.32679.html>

Related National Gallery of Art Library Image Collections Record

https://library.nga.gov/permalink/01NGA_INST/1p5jvkq/alma99217303804896

Related National Gallery of Art Systematic Catalog

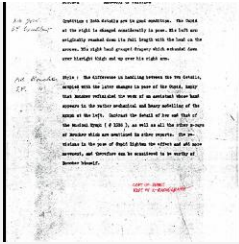
<https://www.nga.gov/research/online-editions/18th-century-french-paintings.html>

7 ARCHIVAL ITEMS



K1336 - Art object record, circa 1930s-1950s

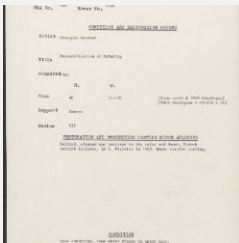
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K1336 - Alan Burroughs report, circa 1930s-1940s



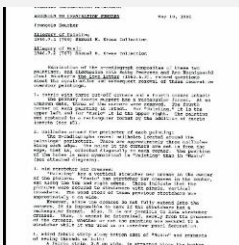
K1336 - Work summary log, 1949



K1336 - Condition and restoration record, circa 1950s-1960s



K1336 - Examination summary, 1990



K1336 - Examination summary, 1990

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K1336 - Examination summary, 2012

RECORD LINK

<https://kress.nga.gov/Detail/objects/196>